Overall, results indicate that cash assistance is well adapted to the context, easy to spend in the local markets and supermarkets and that receiving or spending the assistance did not pose any threat or challenges to beneficiaries. It allowed them to cover a major part of their basic needs and had a significant impact on their situation.

Cash assistance was most frequently reported to be used to cover for basic needs, such as food (92%), clothes/shoes (31%), hygiene items (23%) and health expenses (22%). Nearly three quarters of households (71%) reported they spent all the cash assistance at the time of data collection, while less than one quarter (13%) had spent more than half of the cash assistance.

A vast majority of households (95%) reported that they were able to find the items and/or services that they needed in the markets and/or shops. Almost all the households (97%) reported that items and/or services were available and the quality was in line with households expectations. Price increases were, however, noted.

No household reported feeling unsafe or at risk of harm due to cash assistance. They felt safe during all stages of the assistance cycle e.g. when going to enroll or get the card, when going to spend or withdraw the money, for the fact of keeping the money at home, or any other difficulties related to the cash assistance.

Refugees reported that the cash helped significantly with their needs, with 91% of households meeting half or more of their basic needs at the time of data collection.

Majority of the interviewed households (87%) indicate they intend to stay in their current location in the next three months.

About four in ten households (39%) reported that at least one member is currently working.
### Reception of Cash Assistance

- **Proportion of households reporting having received the amount of cash assistance they were expecting:**
  - Yes: 95%
  - No: 4%
  - Do not know: 1%

- **Proportion of households reporting having received the cash assistance the day they were expecting:**
  - Yes: 67%
  - No: 30%
  - Do not know: 3%

- **Proportion of households reporting they needed help to withdraw or spend the cash assistance:**
  - Did not need help: 93%
  - Needed help: 5%
  - Do not know: 2%

- **Top 3 most frequently reported places where households went to spend the cash assistance:**
  - Supermarkets: 78%
  - Local market: 45%
  - Local shop: 26%

- **Did not need help:** 92% of households reported that the household member registered as recipient in the UNHCR distribution list was in possession of the SIM card at the moment of data collection.

### Non-Compliance Cases

- **1 household reported not having received any cash assistance despite being on the beneficiary list.**
- **0 households reported they had to pay additional money or do favours to withdraw or spend the cash.**

### Difficulties Faced by Beneficiaries

- **0 households reported feeling unsafe at risk of harm in any of the stages related to cash assistance reception (e.g. when going to enroll or get the card, when going to spend or withdraw the money, for the fact of keeping the money at home, or any other difficulties related to the cash assistance).**
- **0 households reported having faced difficulties in accessing and spending the cash because the member registered as recipient was not available.**
- **2% of households reported facing difficulties in accessing and spending the cash because market, shop trader or wholesaler refused to serve them.**

### Difficulties Faced by Beneficiaries

- **Proportion of households reporting having faced difficulties in accessing and spending the cash because they had the wrong PIN code, forgot it or could not enter the PIN code themselves:**
  - Difficulties: 3%
  - No difficulties: 96%
  - Do not know: 1%

- **Proportion of households reporting having faced difficulties in withdrawing the money because of poor service at the bank/post office etc.**
  - Difficulties: 2%
  - No difficulties: 98%
  - Do not know: 1%

### Difficulties Faced by Beneficiaries

- **0 households reported having faced difficulties in spending the cash because market, shop trader or wholesaler refused to serve them.**

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8 Of the 4% (5 households) reporting not receiving the amount of cash assistance, for one it was due to the fact their application was made only 1 week prior to the survey. The household was referred to UNHCR, for follow up.

9 For a large part of the 30% of households reporting not having received the assistance on the expected day, the delay was mentioned only in reference to the third payment. A part of them reported having received first and second payment on time, yet the third one has now been delayed with over twenty days. This indicator can only be considered as indicative. This was a multiple choice question, therefore findings may exceed 100%.

10 As the subset for this indicator is below 30 households, figures are reported as numbers and should be considered as indicative.

11 Due to inconsistencies between responses that could not be verified, there were 2 entries referring to risks and problems experienced that were not taken into consideration.
PDM of UNHCR’s Cash Assistance in Romania, August 2022

Cash Assistance Expenditure

Proportion of households by share of cash assistance that was reportedly already spent at the time of data collection:

- All the cash assistance: 71%
- More than half: 13%
- Half of the cash assistance: 7%
- Less than half: 6%
- Do not know: 3%

Proportion of households reporting on the person in the household deciding the most how the money should be spent:

- Female head of household: 76%
- Both (husband and wife together): 12%
- Male head of household: 10%
- Whole household together: 2%

Proportion of households by most frequently reported items and services where they spent cash assistance on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items / services</th>
<th>1st choice</th>
<th>2nd choice</th>
<th>3rd choice</th>
<th>4th choice</th>
<th>5th choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes / shoes</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene items</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health costs</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities and bills</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household items</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel for cooking or heating</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt repayment</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets for livelihood activity</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave some to other family members/relatives/friends</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal assistance</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter repair</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 6 of most frequently reported sources of income or support other than UNHCR cash assistance in the last 30 days prior to data collection:

- NGOs / agencies - cash: 98%
- NGOs / agencies - material: 95%
- NGOs / agencies - other: 69%
- Formal income: 34%
- Savings: 17%
- Remittances: 12%

All respondents reported that they have at least one other source of income or support. NGOs/agencies (cash, material or other) support was noted in all responses, in combination with other forms of income or support.

Proportion of households reporting they saved a part of the cash assistance:

- Yes: 32%
- No: 66%
- Do not know: 2%

Among the 32% (42) of households that reportedly saved a part of the cash assistance, 57% (24) reported that they saved it in their own account.
Impact of Cash Assistance on Sense of Security

Almost all households reported that the cash assistance had a significant effect on their situation in relation to the following:

- Improved their living conditions: 86%
- Reduced financial burden: 83%
- Reduced feelings of stress: 85%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>Significantly</th>
<th>Moderately</th>
<th>Slightly</th>
<th>No effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportion of household by share of basic needs they reportedly were able to meet at the time of data collection:

- 50% Could meet all their basic needs
- 21% More than half
- 19% Half of their basic needs
- 7% Less than half
- 2% Do not know
- 1% Not at all

Proportion of households reporting they used one or more negative livelihood coping strategy in the 30 days before data collection:

- 87% Used at least one coping strategy
- 13% Did not use any coping strategy

Top 3 of most frequently reported livelihood coping strategies, among households (113) having reportedly used at least one in the 30 days before data collection:

- Stop a child from attending school: 62% (70)
- Reduce essential expenditures in order to meet their food needs: 15% (17)
- Take out new loans or borrowed money: 6% (7)

Most frequent livelihood coping strategy used in the last 7 days before data collection was relying on less preferred and less expensive food, with an average of 3 times within the 7 day time frame.

Availability of products needed at an affordable price in the markets

Proportion of households reporting they were able to find the items/services they needed in the markets and/or shops:

- 95% Yes
- 2% Mostly
- 2% No
- 1% Do not know

5 households reported they were not able to find specific items or services: specific medication (3), dentist (1), and specific food (1).

The majority of households (97%) reported that needed items and/or services were available in the market and the quality was in line with the households’ expectations.

Proportion of households reporting an increase of prices in the market for some items/services in the last 30 days, at the time of data collection:

- 40% Prices increased
- 49% Prices did not increase
- 11% Do not know

Top 4 of most reported items/services, among households (52) having which noticed increase of prices in the last 30 days, at the time of data collection:

- Food products: 71% (37)
- All products: 15% (8)
- Medicines: 6% (3)
- Children supplies: 4% (2)
PDM of UNHCR’s Cash Assistance in Romania, August 2022

Housing Situation, Movement Intentions and Employment

Proportion of households by reported housing situation:
- 37% At friends/family without paying rent
- 29% Rented accommodation (flat, room)
- 23% Hotel/hostel or similar
- 9% At friends/family/relatives by paying rent
- 2% Refugee accommodation

Only 7% (9) of households reported planning to change housing situation. The three most frequently reported reasons were that they are having difficulties with their landlord (3), they cannot afford the rent (2), followed by households being evicted (2).

Proportion of households by reported movement intentions in the three months after data collection:

Majority of households (87%) want to remain in present location, whilst 13% (17) have other intentions: want to return to area (oblast) of origin (5), do not know and are waiting to make a decision (4), want to move to another country (3), and prefer not to say (3). The condition to return is temporary ceasefire or reduction of conflict (1)

Proportion of households where the member registered as recipient of the cash assistance, or another member is currently working:
- 39% Working
- 61% Not working

Among the 61% (80) of households not working, some have the intention to work (31), whilst the rest do not have any intentions to work (46). Some are retired hence they do not have any intention to work (13)

Top 4 of most frequently reported challenges to accessing the labour market:
- Language 44%
- Childcare 28%
- Other 20%
- Available jobs 17%

Complaints and Communication

Top 3 of most frequently reported channels where households heard about UNHCR cash assistance:
- Social media (Facebook, Telegram, Twitter, etc.) 43%
- Via relatives, neighbours, friends 35%
- UNCHR / NGOs staff 32%

Proportion of households that reported needing one or more information about cash assistance:
- 32% Needing at least one type of information
- 68% Not needing any type of information

Top 3 of most frequently reported type of information needed, among the 32% (42) of households that requested at least one of them:
- What assistance is coming next 95%
- Distribution, date, time and location 7%
- How to spend the cash assistance 5%

Only 34% of households reported knowing one or more ways how to report complaints and feedback on the cash assistance from UNHCR, while more than half (66%) did not know how to.

Main shared ways to report complaints and feedback, among the 34% (44) of households that reported knowing at least one:
- Hotline 84%
- Via community mobilisers 46%

Proportion of households by reported preferred modality for future cash assistance:
- 95% Cash distribution
- 4% Combination of cash and in-kind distributions
- 1% Items / in-kind (food or non-food items)

12 Due to a technical issue, 16 interviews were not considered for final findings. As a result, findings related to this indicator are indicative only.
13 Due to a technical issue, 33 interviews were not considered for the final findings. As a result, findings related to this indicator are indicative only.